

and scientific insight, will have to look up the Author's papers in specialist journals. But those many others who want a diverting documentation of assorted wildlife problems, will find here a first-rate account of what happens when the pristine world of Nature comes up against the (all too often) antagonistic world of technological Man. Some readers might feel that Dr LaBastille is unduly derogatory of 'development technocrats' and others who, whether wittingly or not, seek to modify and often transform the few habitats that are left to wildlife. In many instances, it is possible to achieve complementary accord between the survival needs of wild creatures and the legitimate aspirations of Third World communities—and economists may have as much worthwhile advice to offer as do ecologists with regard to the key question: How shall Man live in sustainable equilibrium with the One Earth-Home that supports millions of other species?

To these issues, Dr LaBastille directs less attention than to burning problems of 'no-return disruption' of ecosystems: her work draws her to situations of 'ecological flashpoints' and 'thresholds of outright danger', i.e. those situations where Man runs the risk of imposing irreversible injury on his life-support system. In short, the Author's assignments tend to be described in black-white terms: and in most instances in her book, her stance is justified—especially when she is campaigning on behalf of a species that is on the verge of extinction.

All in all, then, this is a stimulating as well as interesting book. It is an account written as much from the standpoint of one person's conviction as from the standpoint of clinically objective science. This comment is not intended to detract at all from the substance of the book. It merely emphasizes the stirring spirit that informs on every page, producing a book that is packed with detail and devoid of dull narrative. More power to your elbow, Dr LaBastille: let's have some more.

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The Ecology of Tomorrow's World: Industry's Environment, by JOHN ELKINGTON. Associated Business Press, Ludgate House, 107–111 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2AB, England, UK: xii + 311 pp., illustr., £12, 1980.

The cause of environment in the world today is at a turning point. The easy days of the fight against obvious pollution in the 1960s and 1970s are over. Now the battle has been largely won, but victory by this route will never be total, as the economic cost in a healthy world economy of the 1980s will be prohibitive. What is required is an environmental policy which is preventive rather than curative, anticipatory rather than reactive—and, above all, cost-effective.

This is the central message of John Elkington's book, which is unusual in giving full voice to the environmentalists' cause as well as a voice of understanding for the legitimate concerns and fears of industry. He develops the theme by looking squarely at industrial enterprises and seeing how little, or sometimes how much, they have adapted themselves to the environmental challenge. He also looks at the strength of the ecological movement

as a force which industry will have to reckon with, regardless of the economical climate and ultimate costs.

The question thus is: whether industry and the environmentalists will work together or against each other. In separate chapters the Author outlines how such mutually profitable cooperation can work out for industrial processes by making them less wasteful, for industrial projects by making them fit better with natural systems, and for products by making them less harmful. All this requires the respecting of Nature's laws by the industrialist, by putting himself in the shoes of those who would protect Nature. By doing this, industry will prosper and expand. Ultimately, in the future, it is to be hoped that this integration, which is now being set in motion, will lead to new life-styles and new development patterns that will allow compatible economic growth and environmental quality.

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Sexual Strategy, by T. HALLIDAY. Oxford University Press, Oxford—New York—Toronto—Brisbane: 158 pp., illustr., 25.5 × 19 × 1.8 cm, £6.95, 1980.

The sex instinct, Robert Musil once observed with considerable understatement, mysteriously leads even the most circumspect people to behave in ways that have a lot in common with insanity. He might just as well have included other animals, as this sober and fascinating introductory text amply proves: nothing but the deepest and most powerful of urges could make the male *Eleutherodactylus fitzingeri* (a small Central American frog) persist with amazing courage in the mating call that attracts predators as well as the female of his own species; and the male East African mantid pursues the female even though she almost invariably eats him while he is still mating with her.

Less sanguinary wonders also await the reader: the male Corsican brook salamander seizes his prospective but usually unwilling mate by her tail and holds on until he can manoeuvre himself into a position to copulate with her; female glow-worms, on the other hand, flash invitations to the males flying by overhead; and the male bustard courts the female by fluffing up his feathers gorgeously until he resembles a ruptured mattress.

As these examples suggest, Dr Halliday deals not with the actual techniques of copulating—which admit of relatively few variations—but with the dazzlingly varied ways in which animals, including the human being, attract mates. The sheer variety will leave the reader bewildered about what general similarities may lurk under all these differences—a highly desirable reaction to provoke in the secondary school or university student at whom both this book and the series to which it belongs are aimed.

As a reader with little formal training in biology, I found nothing in the data presented that I felt could have been significantly improved upon. The Author has necessarily had to be selective, and another working biologist—Halliday himself is a lecturer in biology at the Open University in London—would perhaps have cavilled at this or that, but personally I forbear. This volume